
Subject: Re: Displaying floating point values with user specified decimal places?

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Fri, 25 Mar 2005 23:55:30 GMT

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Jonathan Greenberg writes:

> How do I control how a system works with decimal places for floating point
> values? For instance, I did a few fltarr assigns which end up displaying
> (via print,array) a longish floating point value without the decimals which
> I know are there (e.g. 657456. vs the "true" value of 657456.25), or in
> scientific number format -- when I go to use, for instance, Dave Fannings
> write_csv_data.pro, it writes the array out in the same format that
> print,array spits out. How do I control this decimal display format?

I think you might be ready for this article:

http://www.dfanning.com/math_tips/sky_is_falling.html

Have a look at the FORMAT keyword for both PRINT and PRINTF,
then think about how many significant digits you can display
in a float with computers. You may have to re-think your
notion of a "true value". :-)

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
